

# 5 POLICEMEN HURT IN HARLEM MELEE

By ERIC PACE

New York Times (1923-Current file); Apr 15, 1972;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2008)

pg. 1



Associated Press/Eddie Adams

**DISORDER IN HARLEM:** Detective fires in air as policeman aids injured colleague in plain clothes. Windshield of police car at right was smashed. Scene is West 116th St.

## 5 POLICEMEN HURT IN HARLEM MELEE

Clash as 2 Patrolmen Enter  
a Muslim Mosque Erupts  
Into General Disorder

By ERIC PACE

Five policemen and at least three civilians were hurt yesterday when a fight and a shootout in a Black Muslim mosque led to three hours of intermittent disorder in the surrounding Harlem streets.

The city's first substantial racial disturbance this year began when two patrolmen, both of Hispanic origin, entered the mosque. They were responding to a telephoned appeal for help, the police said, but they got into a fight with 10 men. One patrolman was shot, and one slashed across the face.

Then oaths and bottles flew through the spring air as a thousand people milled around the mosque, Muhammad's Temple No. 7, at the corner of 116th Street and Lenox Avenue.

Neighborhood youths set a police car on fire, but other property damage was slight. Most of the crowd dispersed after white policemen withdrew and mosque officials appealed for calm.

The mosque's leader, Minister Louis Farrakhan, climbed atop a parked sedan and called out, "Every brother and sister here, just be cool. Don't let anybody provoke you."

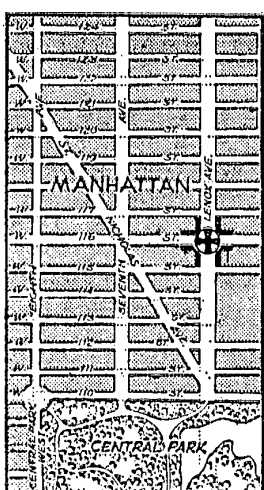
The crowd gathered, the police said, after reinforcements arrived and a third policeman fired into the entrance hall. They did not exclude the possibility that one of the shots might have hit the policeman,

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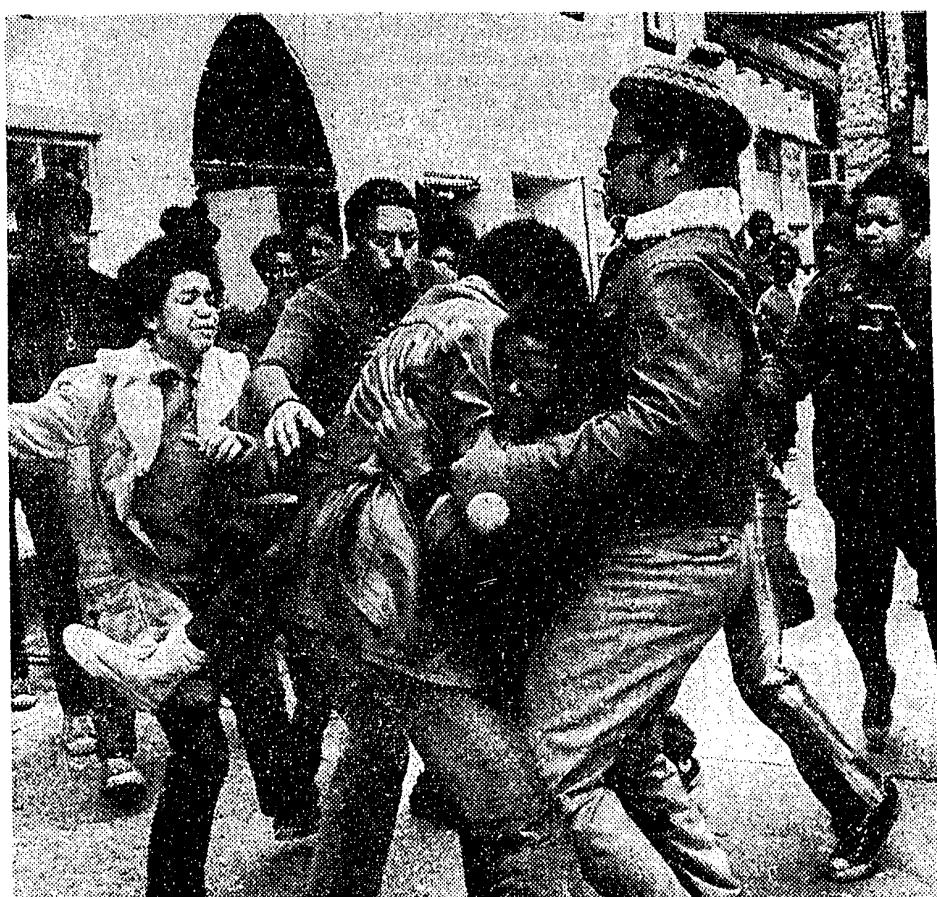
# Five Policemen Are Injured After Mosque Incident



Car being overturned yesterday during one of the incidents that followed a dispute at mosque on West 116th Street



The New York Times/April 15, 1972  
Cross marks melee site



Photographs for The New York Times by MEYER LIEBOWITZ  
Some people in the area struggling to calm man during the excitement. Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of Muhammad's Temple No. 7, made an effective appeal for calm.

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Philip W. Cardillo.  
But Robert Daley, deputy police commissioner for public affairs, said the policeman's shots had been "fired high" and struck a wall. He said an assailant had presumably seized another police gun and used it to shoot Patrolman Cardillo, who was listed in critical condition at St. Luke's hospital yesterday evening after undergoing five hours of surgery.

Hospitalized with him was his partner, Patrolman Victor Padilla, who had been slashed on the right side of his face.

Mayor Lindsay and Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy sped to their bedside while word of the disturbance spread, and neighborhood people streamed into the intersection, shouting obscenities at the police.

At a hospital news conference, the Mayor said: "Anything can always trigger off one of these incidents. That's one of the problems in this country now, and that's what I've been trying to say in the last several months."

Black leaders made no immediate comment on the causes of the disorder, but Haywood Burns, director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, said he had seen the police who came to aid the two patrolmen beating local residents with truncheons at the mosque's entrance. He said he had seen two or three policemen poke their revolvers through the two small windows in the doors.

"The only ones I saw doing the beating and the shooting were white," he said in a sidewalk interview. "There were black policemen there, too, but not in the vicinity of the doors."

Neighborhood people said it had been an act of desecration for the two armed patrolmen to enter the mosque. And one police commander said privately that general police policy had been not to enter the mosque. "We've told these guys that 50 times," he added.

But Edward J. Kiernan, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, said a black police leader was partly responsible for the trouble.

He said "the rioting on 116th Street today was an expectable result of the irresponsible racist statements made by Sgt. Howard Sheffey yesterday."

Sergeant Sheffey, the head of the Guardians, the black policemen's organization, had charged that white police leaders fostered an attitude of "shoot first and ask questions later."

At Police Headquarters, a department spokesman said the two patrolmen had gone to the mosque to answer an anonymous call made at 11:43 A.M. to the communications bureau at headquarters.

He said the caller had reported that he was a detective and in need of help "right away inside the mosque."

But the spokesman said the department would investigate the "whole series of events."

Two men were arrested and charged with assault on a policeman. Early this morning the police identified them as Louis 17X Dupree, 32, who gave the mosque as his address, and Bobby 9X Hopes, 28, of 1060 Anderson Avenue in the Bronx.

Another charge, among others, against Mr. Dupree was attempted robbery. One police source said the charge could involve policemen's guns.

At one point, Mr. Daley called the incident a "terrible accident," but he did not elaborate. He said the policeman who had fired the shots did so

after seeing the two patrolmen being stomped and beaten in the hall.

The police reinforcements then poured inside and carried off their wounded. Outside, residents of the area shouted: "I hope you die, you pigs," and "I hope you drop dead."

Chief of Detectives Albert A. Seedman appeared briefly among the more than 100 policemen who had rushed to the scene, then he went into the mosque.

Outside, a whisky bottle arched through the air and the crowd fled as it smashed on the street.

Local youths roughed up Pat Collins, a white woman on the staff of N.B.C. News, and threw her to the ground.

Moments later, other youths turned an unmarked police car—a Plymouth Fury with New Jersey plates—on its side, and set its upholstery afire. Firemen soon put out the flames.

"Let's clear the street," a policeman said through a bull horn, but the crowd shouted, "We can't hear you."

## More Shots Fired

More bottles and bricks were thrown, and then women screamed and hundreds ran as a plainclothes man fired four shots into the air while another plainclothes man, stunned by a brick, was being evacuated. He was hustled to safety inside a passing bus.

Mr. Daley and policemen then pleaded with white reporters to leave the scene. Mr. Daley said: "Would you all do me a favor and leave before we have a riot here."

He said a search of men found inside the mosque had yielded no firearms, although it was reported later that the .38-caliber service revolvers of the two policemen who had originally entered the mosque were missing.

"Y'all go downtown," a bearded local man shouted to the police and press, and gradually the police withdrew from the sidewalk in front of the mosque.